

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 22-24 remain in this application.

Claims 1-21 and 25-28 have been canceled, without prejudice.

The examiner has acknowledged that claims 22-24 are directed to allowable subject matter.

All other claims (i.e., 1-21 and 25-28) that the examiner continues to reject have been canceled, without prejudice, by this amendment. Applicant's sole reason for canceling these claims is to promptly obtain patent issuance with the allowed claims.

Applicant intends to continue prosecution of the hereby canceled claims in a continuation application upon receipt of an official Notice of Allowance as to the allowed claims 22-24 remaining in the application. Applicant's cancellations of claims 1-21 and 25-28 are not intended or made as any admission or agreement to the examiner's purported grounds for rejection of these canceled claims. Solely in order to expedite issuance of a patent with the allowed claims, Applicant has canceled the presently rejected claims, without prejudice. Applicant generally remains in disagreement with the examiner regarding the examiner's purported grounds for the rejections, and Applicant intends to further argue and pursue the non-allowed claims through further argument and presentation in a related continuation application.

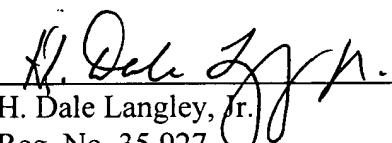
Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, the undersigned attorney for Applicant respectfully requests a call to discuss any issues. The Office is authorized to charge any excess fees or to credit any overage to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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